



Wireless 911 and Indoor Location Accuracy

When dialing 911, providing first responders with accurate location information is essential. In situations where the caller is unable to provide a location, it can mean the difference between life and death.

The current 911 landline location system, tied to a physical street address, is highly effective. The current 911 wireless phone location system is not. Yet millions of Americans each year rely on their mobile phones to place emergency calls to 911, not realizing that if they place that call from many indoor locations there is no ability to determine their location and there is no FCC requirement that wireless carriers be able to do so.

If a call is placed indoors from a wireless phone or where GPS signals are compromised, the location information may be unreliable or inaccurate. People living or working in multi-story, densely-populated urban areas are the ones most adversely impacted by the limitation of existing E-911 location accuracy requirements.

Consider these facts:

- The FCC estimates that of the roughly 240 million 911 calls placed each year, 70 percent are now placed from wireless phones.
- At least 50 percent of all wireless calls originate indoors, according to industry estimates.
- Nearly one-third of households in the United States are wireless-only, with no landline, and totally reliant on wireless phones during emergencies.

Despite the fact that the majority of calls to 911 originate from mobile phones, there is no FCC location requirement for mobile calls placed indoors. Outdoors, yes. Indoors, no.

In a [letter sent to the FCC](#), the International Association of Chiefs of Police, International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Sheriffs' Association and the National EMS Leadership Conference agreed on the vital need for reliable location information:

"With the expanding quantity of devices and wireless technologies, there is a **pressing public safety need for reliable, accurate location capabilities in urban and suburban indoor environments, where the need is greatest."**

There are current technologies that can provide accurate location information for calls made indoors and recent testing results confirm this. The FCC now has enough information about indoor location technologies to move forward quickly to establish a reasonable, measurable level of location accuracy for emergency calls made indoors, enabling first responders to locate emergency calls from wireless phones from all locations rapidly and efficiently.

Learn more at www.findme911.org and [Find me 911 on Facebook](#).